

**Interagency Hydrology Committee for Alaska (IHCA)
Final Meeting Minutes
Anchorage, Alaska
October 22-23, 2003**

Officers for Fall 2003 – Fall 2004

Chair – John Trawicki, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Vice Chair – Emerson Krueger, Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs

Secretary – Jon Zufelt, Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory

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October 22, 2003

OPEN MEETING 09:40 AM

**AGENCY REPRESENTATIVE IDENTIFICATION – Attendees and Introductions
Sign-in/Address List distributed – (* = Voting Representative):**

- *Dave Meyer - USGS
- *Rick McClure - USDA/NRCS
- *Mark Miles - AK DOT
- *Emerson Krueger - AK DMVA
- *Gary Prokosch - AK DNR
- *Nancy Deschu – USDI NPS
- *Michael Crotteau -USDA Forest Service
- *Larry Rundquist - US NWS
- *John Trawicki - US FWS
- *Ron Klein - AK DEC

Guests - none

Changes to Agenda

- AWRA Spring Meeting Plan was added to new business

Review & Approval of Spring 2003 Minutes – Unanimous approval to accept minutes as presented.

On-Going Project / Committee Reports

Proposed Federal Legislation (Trawicki)

-HR2557 Authorizes Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States and for other purposes.

-HR39 Establishes and implements a competitive oil and gas leasing program that will result in an environmentally sound and job creating program for the exploration,

development, and production of the soil and gas resources of the Coastal Plain, and for other purposes.

-HR1945 Authorizes the Secretary of Commerce to provide financial assistance to the States of Alaska, WA, OR CA, and ID for salmon habitat restoration projects in coastal waters and upland drainages, and for other purposes.

-S561 Preserves the authority of States over water within their boundaries, and delegates to States the authority of Congress to regulate water, and for other purposes.

-S.RES183 Commemorates 50 years of adjudication under the McCarran Amendment of rights to use water

-HR979 Provides additional protections for National Forest System lands in Alaska through the designation of wilderness areas, wilderness study areas, Land Use Designation II Management areas, restoration areas, special management areas, and additional components of the national wild and scenic rivers system.

-HR2603 imposes limitations on the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to claim title or other rights to water absent specific direction of law or to abrogate, injure, or otherwise impair any right to the use of any quantity of water.

-HR2828 authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to implement water supply technology and infrastructure programs aimed at increasing and diversifying domestic water resources.

-HR306 amends the Safe Drinking Water Act to provide procedures for claims relating to drinking water.

-HR3328 amends the Safe Drinking Water Act to establish a program to provide assistance to small communities for use in carrying out projects and activities necessary to achieve or maintain compliance with drinking water standards.

-S844 subjects the United States to imposition of fees and costs in proceedings relating to State water rights adjudications.

-HR135 establishes the "Twenty-first Century Water Commission" to study and develop recommendations for a comprehensive water strategy to address future water needs.

-S1307 authorizes the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation, to assist in the implementation of fish passage and screening facilities at non-Federal water projects, and for other purposes.

-HR504 provides for the reclamation of abandoned hardrock mines, and other purposes.

Alaska State Legislation (Prokosch)

-SSCR1 disapproves Exec Order #107, relating to the transfer of certain functions of the Department of Fish and Game to the Department of Natural Resources and to the transfer of certain functions within the Department of Natural Resources.

-SB39 relates to management of fish and game in and on the navigable waters and submerged lands in Alaska.

-HB192 designates the Department of Natural Resources as lead agency for resource development projects; making conforming amendment; and providing for an effective date.

-HB238 merges the Department of Environmental Conservation and the Department of Natural Resources and names the resulting entity the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation; and provides for an effective date.

OLD BUSINESS AND IHCA - Project Updates

- Electronic copies of Agency Reports should be sent to the secretary prior to the meeting.
- Members list needs to be updated by the Secretary.
- To address the 6-month lag in posting minutes on the IHCA website it was agreed that the draft minutes would be emailed to all voting members for approval.

TP-47 Project Update – Handout #3 (included at the end of the Appendix) references a conference call discussing the cost estimate to prepare analysis for Alaska. Mr. Rundquist has a copy of the report to pass on to the Secretary for inclusion in IHCA's record of the TP-47 issue. Alternate sources of funding to supplement the project may include the Association of Professional Engineers and IHCA letters to state representatives.

Letter to Governor Murkowski – Original letter to Governor Knowles was never signed. Mr. Hock, who was not present, may have the only electronic copy of the letter. Mr. Trawicki stated he would track the electronic copy down. No significant changes are anticipated to the letter. Mr. Prokosch stated that he would find out if changes to the FERC hydrologic procedures require change to the letter. It was agreed that the re-drafted letter would be emailed to voting members for a 30-day review.

Interagency Flood Data Sheets – One has been turned in.

Groundwater Data Collection Standards – No significant changes.

National Environmental Methods Index – Not discussed.

Ex-Chair Report – Not written yet. Should be a one page bulleted summary. A student intern may draft old, unwritten reports at some point. The files are located at the USGS office on APU campus by Steve Frenzel's office.

- Motion passed to transfer the files to ARLIS.
- Motion passed for current Secretary to find old files from previous secretaries before December so all files transferred to ARLIS are moved at one time.

Climate Reference Network – the two sites in Alaska will continue to operate for 2003-04. Nothing new proposed for Alaska. Due to budget cuts the projected number of sites for Alaska has been reduced from 42 to 12.

FEMA Flood Map Modernization – Not discussed. Alaska may get a FEMA office.
GAO Flooding and Erosion Study – Not Discussed.

AGENCY REPORTS

FEDERAL

US Army Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory (Zufelt)

Not present but an electronic report is included in the Appendix.

US Army Corps of Engineers – Alaska District (Mierzejewski)

Not present and no report provided.

US Forest Service (Crotteau)

An electronic report is included in the Appendix.

National Resources Conservation Service (McClure)

An electronic report is included in the Appendix.

National Weather Service (Rundquist)

An electronic report is included in the Appendix.

National Marine Fisheries Service (Larry Peltz)

Not present and no report provided.

Bureau of Indian Affairs (Kahklen)

Not present and no report provided.

US Bureau of Land Management (Koss)

An electronic report is included in the Appendix.

US Fish and Wildlife Service (Trawicki)

An electronic report is included in the Appendix.

US Geological Survey (Meyer)

An electronic report is included in the Appendix.

National Park Service (Deschu)

An electronic report is included in the Appendix.

US EPA

Not present and no report provided.

STATE AGENCIES

AK Department of Community and Economic Development (Miller)

Not present and no report provided.

AK Department of Environmental Conservation (Ron Klein)

An electronic report is included in the Appendix.

AK Department of Fish & Game (Joe Klein)

Not present and no report provided.

AK Department of Military and Veterans Affairs –National Guard (Krueger)

An electronic report is included in the Appendix.

AK Department of Natural Resources (Prokosh)

An electronic report is included in the Appendix.

AK Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (Miles)

An electronic report is included in the Appendix.

AK Division of Governmental Coordination

Not present and no report provided.

UAA/ENRI (Zufelt)

Not present but an electronic report is included in the Appendix.

UAF (Larry Hinzman)

Not present but an electronic report is included in the Appendix.

New Business

- AWRA Spring Meeting will occur in the first two weeks of April.
- USGS is trying to build expertise in Coal Bed Hydrology
- ARLIS Guest Speaker Celia Rosen was invited by Nancy Deschu to speak to the possibility of ARLIS filing the minutes and handouts of IHCA meetings. Mrs. Rosen indicated that ARLIS may want to catalogue the information as White Papers. ARLIS is currently operating on a grant from Senator Ted Stevens that added an additional 6-cataloguers to the staff. This additional staff will be released in January. (Note: ARLIS is moving to UAA campus in Fall '05). Mrs. Rosen stated she would submit the request at the Management Team Meeting on 5 November.
 - Mr. Trawicki volunteered to be the Point of Contact for getting the material transferred to IHCA.
- Motion passed for the Secretary to submit the draft minutes via email to the voting members. Minutes will be final upon reaching a quorum of voting members present at the meeting. Quorum will be based on the number of voting members present at the meeting.
- The Secretary will send out electronic copies of the agency reports with the draft minutes. All agency reports are to be submitted to the Secretary in electronic Microsoft document format prior to the meeting.

- UAA Guest Speaker Dennis Tol gave an update of Alaska NHD Production Status. They are expecting to be done delineating by June 2004. Agencies should be ready to review data by this date.
- **Next IHCA Meeting – Spring 2004 –**
 - Where:** Fairbanks, AK (possibly at BLM)
 - When:** 5 April
 - Start Time:** To Be Determined – Trawicki will check with AWRA about co-scheduling the meetings.